

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
GAS SERVICES DIVISION**

**GAS UTILITIES
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

No. 720



**RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**

**Michael L. Williams, Chairman
Charles R. Matthews, Commissioner
Victor G. Carrillo, Commissioner**

**Steve Pitner
Director
Gas Services Division**

March 25, 2003

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SECTION 1
NEW APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS FILED

DOCKET NO. -- 9383
CAPTION -- Statement of Intent Filed by Texas Gas Service to Change Rates Within the Environs of Port Arthur, TX.
DATE FILED -- 3/19/2003
FILED BY -- Stacey McTaggart
EXAMINER -- Michelle Lingo

CASES REFERRED TO SOAH

DOCKET NO. -- 9291
CAPTION -- Request of Texas General Land Office for immediate action to stay abandonment and for establishment of transportation rate on Panther Pipeline, LTD.
DATE REFERRED TO SOAH -- 06/28/2002
SOAH DOCKET NO. -- 455-02-3446
SOAH ALJ -- Wendy Harvel

DOCKET NO. -- 9313
CAPTION -- Petition for review of TXU Gas Distribution from the actions of the City of Arlington, et al.
DATE REFERRED TO SOAH -- 08/21/2002
SOAH DOCKET NO. -- 455-02-4058
SOAH ALJ -- Kerry Sullivan

SECTION 2
APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS SET FOR HEARING OR PREHEARING CONFERENCE

None at this time.

SECTION 3
STATUS OF PENDING CASES

DOCKET NO. -- 9376
CAPTION -- Statement of Intent Filed by TXU Gas Distribution to Change Rates in the Environs of the Cities in the Northwest Region Distribution System.
DATE OF ACTION -- March 24, 2003
STATUS -- Proposed rates were suspended for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days from the date the rates would otherwise have gone into effect.
EXAMINER -- John Chakales

DOCKET NO. -- 9377
CAPTION -- Statement of Intent Filed by TXU Gas Distribution to Change Rates in the Environs of the Cities in the North Texas Metroplex Distribution System.
DATE OF ACTION -- March 24, 2003
STATUS -- Proposed rates were suspended for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days from the date the rates would otherwise have gone into effect.
EXAMINER -- Michelle Lingo

DOCKET NO. -- 9379
CAPTION -- Statement of Intent Filed by TXU Gas Distribution to Change Rates in the Environs of the Cities in the Longview Distribution System.
DATE OF ACTION -- March 24, 2003
STATUS -- Proposed rates were suspended for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days from the date the rates would otherwise have gone into effect.
EXAMINER -- John Chakales

SECTION 4
NOTICES OF DISMISSAL

None at this time.

SECTION 5
ORDERS OF THE COMMISSION

None at this time.

SECTION 6
MISCELLANEOUS

STEVE PITNER, GAS SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR

1. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

A. Publications

1. Texas Utilities Code Titles 3 and 4. Special Rules of Practice and Procedure and Substantive Rules - \$15.00
2. a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001 – Now available via the Commission’s website at:
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/tablecontents01.html>
 - a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000 - \$17.00 (includes statistical data for 1999)
 - b. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999 - \$9.00 (includes statistical data for 1998)
 - c. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998 - \$7.00 (includes statistical data for 1997)
3. **2002 Pipeline Safety Rules - \$13.00, includes: 49 CFR 191 & 192 and 16 TAC Sections 7.70-7.74 (gas) 49 CFR 193 (LNG); 49 CFR 195 and 16 TAC Sections 7.80-7.87 (hazardous liquids); 49 CFR 40 and 199 (drug testing).**
4. Distribution and/or Gas Transmission Review forms for Adequacy of Operation, Maintenance and Emergency Manual - To obtain a copy of review forms at no charge, send a request with a self addressed envelope (10" x 13"preferably) with \$0.98 postage.
5. Six MCF Monthly Residential Gas Bill Analysis for Twenty-five Texas Cities - \$2.00 – Now available via the Commission’s website at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/sixmcf.html>

Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of any of the publications or maps listed in Section A should contact the Gas Services Division, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, (512) 463-7167.

B. Interest Rate on Customer Deposits

We have been advised by the Public Utility Commission that the interest rate to be applied to customer deposits in calendar year 2003 is 6.00%. All gas utilities should use this rate.

2. PIPELINE SAFETY SECTION

A. Austin Headquarters - William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress, (78701)
PO Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Telephone (512) 463-7058

Mary L. McDaniel, P.E., Assistant Director
William (Bill) Dase, Jr., P.E., Engineer
Terry Pardo, P.E., Engineer
K. David Born, Field Operations Manager
Lee Thying, P.E., Engineer
Maurice Curd, Program Administrator

Amarillo Region 1 - 7102 IH-40 West, Bldg. C., Amarillo, Texas 79106 Telephone (806) 468-7486

Alan Mann, Engineering Specialist

Midland Region 2 - Petroleum Building, 214 West Texas, Suite 803, Midland, Texas 79701 Telephone (915) 570-5884

Glenn Taylor, Area Supervisor (Midland/Amarillo)
Larry Felio, P.E., Engineer
Keith Smith, Engineering Specialist
Tim Murray, Engineering Specialist (Abilene)

Kilgore Region 3 - 619 Henderson Boulevard, Kilgore, Texas 75662 Telephone (903) 984-8581

Bob Oldham, Engineering Specialist
James Alexander, Engineering Specialist
Jerry Hill, Engineering Specialist

Austin Region 4 - 1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 Telephone (512) 463-7050

Kendall Smith, Area Supervisor
Johnny Burgess, Engineering Specialist
Mark Arguelles, Program Administrator

Houston Region 5 -1706 Seamist Drive, Ste 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135 Telephone (713) 869-8425

Danny Nichols, Area Supervisor
Jerry Hoff, Engineering Specialist
Jim Arnold, Engineering Specialist
Randy Vaughn, Engineering Specialist
Gregory Johnson, Engineering Specialist
Frank Henderson, Engineering Specialist
John Jewett, Engineering Assistant

Dallas Region 6 -1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043 Telephone (972) 240-5757

Jody Kerl, P.E., Area Supervisor (Dallas/Kilgore)
M. Kathryn Williams-Guzman, Engineering Specialist
San Sein, Engineering Specialist
Terry Sullivan, Engineering Assistant

Corpus Christi Region 7 -10320 IH-37, P.O. Box 10307, Corpus Christi, Texas 78460-0307 Telephone (361) 242-3117

Don Gault, Area Supervisor
Steven Rios, Engineering Specialist
Jesse Cantu, Jr., Engineering Specialist
Ronda Lauderman, Engineering Assistant

B. Monthly Summary (January)

No. of distribution safety evaluations – 59
No. of transmission safety evaluations - 70
No. of liquid safety evaluations - 39
No. of leak/calls - 52
No. of accident investigations - 6
No. of special investigations – 15

C. Reporting of Pipeline Accidents

1) NATURAL GAS

Accidents on intrastate gas systems involving \$5,000 property damage, a fatality or injuries, gas ignition, or that are judged significant must be reported by telephone within two hours, and the written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

2) HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS

Accidents on intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines reportable under 49 CFR Sections 195.50 and 195.52 and 16 TAC Section 7.84(a) must be reported by telephone within two hours and the required written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

Rules and Regulations:

[Federal Register: March 17, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 51)]

[Notices]

[Page 12736-12737]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

[DOCID:fr17mr03-121]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)

[Docket No. RSPA-03-14448; Notice 3]

Pipeline Safety: Qualification of Pipeline Personnel

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) will conduct a public meeting to discuss progress in implementing the operator qualification (OQ) rule for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. OPS will continue to develop the protocols and guidance materials, and provide an opportunity for public comment. A panel of experts will address technical issues associated with protocols and related materials. A record of the previous public meeting on Qualification of Pipeline Personnel that was held in San Antonio, TX, is available in this docket (RSPA-03-14448).

DATES: The public meeting will be held on March 25, 2003, beginning at 8:30 a.m., ending at 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix East Hotel & Convention Center, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85201 (Tel: 800-456-6372 or 480-898-8300); Fax: 480-964-9279; web: <http://www.sheratonmesa.com/>.

The deadline for making a hotel reservation is

www.sheratonmesa.com/. The deadline for making a hotel reservation is

March 18, 2003 (refer to the U.S. DOT Operator Qualification Group block for government rates). This meeting is free and open to the public. You may register electronically for this meeting at: <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/meetings>.

The program will continue to address the 13 issues generated by the first public meeting held in January 2003, and will be open for technical input. This will include presentations on definitions of terms discussed at the last meeting. Persons wishing to make a presentation or statement at the meeting should notify Janice Morgan, (202) 366-2392, no later than March 21, 2003.

Although we encourage persons wishing to comment on operator qualification and inspection protocols to participate in the public meeting, written comments will be accepted. You may submit written comments on operator qualification and inspection issues by mail or delivery to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The dockets facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. You should submit the original and one copy. Anyone who wants confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. You may also submit comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log on to the Internet Web address <http://dms.dot.gov>, and click on "Help" for instructions on electronic filing of comments. All written comments should identify the docket number RSPA-03-14448; Notice 2.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comments (or signing the comments, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may

review the U.S. Department of Transportation's complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (volume 65, number 70; pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Richard Sanders at (405) 954-7214 or (405) 954-7219, regarding the agenda of this public meeting. General information about OPS programs may be obtained by accessing OPS's Internet home page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities:

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities

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or to request special assistance, contact Janice Morgan, (202) 366-2392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The operator qualification rules at 49 CFR 192.801 (for gas pipelines) and at 49 CFR 195.501 (for hazardous liquid pipelines) require every pipeline operator to have and follow a written qualification program that includes provisions to identify covered tasks and to ensure that all persons performing these tasks are qualified. By October 28, 2002, all gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators should have completed the qualification of all individuals performing covered tasks on pipeline facilities.

On March 25, 2003, OPS will conduct a public meeting to continue discussions on the progress in implementing the operator qualification rule for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. OPS will present a detailed review of the development of the operator qualification inspection protocols. The meeting will focus on areas considered high priority and discussion on compliance issues from Federal and State pipeline safety personnel. These issues, as identified at a previous public meeting on January 22, 2003, in San Antonio, TX, are as follows:

- (1) Scope of Operator Qualification
- (2) Evaluation of Knowledge, Skills, and Physical Ability
- (3) Re-evaluation Intervals
- (4) Maintenance versus New Construction
- (5) Treatment of Emergency Response
- (6) Additional Covered Tasks
- (7) Extent of Documentation
- (8) Abnormal Operating Conditions
- (9) Treatment of Training
- (10) Criteria for Small Operators
- (11) Direction and Observation of Non-Qualified People
- (12) Noteworthy Practices
- (13) Persons Contributing to an Incident or Accident

All persons attending the meeting will have an opportunity to comment on operator qualification compliance issues and to question the expert panel on the new operator qualification compliance protocols.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 12, 2003.
James K. O'Steen,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. 03-6331 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

[Federal Register: March 19, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 53)]
[Proposed Rules]
[Page 13249-13250]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr19mr03-27]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Part 192

[Docket No. RSPA-00-7666; Notice 5]
RIN 2137-AD54

Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Gas Transmission Pipelines)

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the period for comment on the notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Federal Register on January 28, 2003 (68 FR 4278), from March 31, 2003, to April 30, 2003. The proposed rule requires operators to develop integrity management programs for gas transmission pipelines that, in the event of a failure, could impact high consequence areas (HCAs).

DATES: The comment period for interested persons to submit written comments on the proposed gas pipeline integrity management rule ends April 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES:

Filing Information

You may submit written comments by mail or delivery to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers stated in the heading of this notice. Anyone desiring confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard.

Electronic Access

You may also submit written comments to the docket electronically.
To submit comments electronically, access the following Internet Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" for instructions on how to file a document electronically.

Privacy Act Information

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if

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submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.).

You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (volume 65, number 70; pages 19477-78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

General Information

You may contact the Dockets Facility by phone at (202) 366-9329, for copies of this proposed rule or other material in the docket. All materials in this docket may be accessed electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov/search>. Once you access this address, type in the last four digits of the docket number shown at the beginning of this notice (in this case 7666), and click on search. You will then be connected to all relevant information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Israni by phone at (202) 366-4571, by fax at (202) 366-4566, or by e-mail at mike.israni@rspa.dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of this proposed rule. General information about the RSPA/OPS programs may be obtained by accessing RSPA's Internet page at <http://RSPA.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RSPA/OPS published a proposed rule on pipeline integrity management in high consequence areas for gas transmission pipelines on January 28, 2003 (68 FR 4278). That notice provided a 60-day comment period ending on March 31, 2003. By petition dated March 6, 2003, the American Gas Association (AGA), the American Public Gas Association (APGA), and the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) requested that the comment period be extended by 60 days, from March 31, 2003, to May 30, 2003.

In the petition, the associations argue that because the proposed rule is lengthy and complex, additional time is necessary to analyze the proposal and prepare comments. The petition also refers to the public meeting on March 14, 2003, where OPS will discuss the proposed rule. The associations maintain it will take time for them to inform their member companies about the discussions at the meeting so that the companies can use the information in developing their comments.

RSPA/OPS has decided to extend the comment period in light of the request and the complexity of this proposed rule. RSPA/OPS does not consider that a 60-day extension is necessary. A statutory requirement (Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, 49 U.S.C. 60109(c)) requires us to publish the final rule by December 17, 2003. A 60-day extension of the comment period would not allow us to meet this statutory deadline. A 30-day extension provides 45 days after the public meeting for interested parties to submit comments.

RSPA/OPS believes that an extension of the comment period by 30 days from the existing closing date (March 31, 2003) is reasonable; the comment period is hereby extended to April 30, 2003.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 13, 2003.
Stacey L. Gerard,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. 03-6626 Filed 3-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

AUDIT SECTION**A. Maintains headquarters and three district offices as follows:**

Headquarters - William B. Travis Building

1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78701

Ed Abrahamson, Assistant Director

Telephone (512) 463-7022

Dallas District- 1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043

Telephone (972) 240-5757;

Fax (972)303-1897

Stephen Cooper, Auditor

Josh Settle, Auditor

Austin District- P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Telephone (512) 463-7022

Houston District- 1706 Seamist Drive. Suite 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135

Telephone (713) 869-8425;

Fax (713)869-3219

Dale Francis, Auditor

Margie Stoney, Auditor

Konata Uzoma, Auditor

Lekisha Churchwell, Auditor

Larry Alcorn, Auditor

B. Gas Utility Tax, Annual Reports and Audit Reports

Questions relating to gas utility tax, annual reports and audit reports, call Shannon L. Miller at (512) 463-7022.

C. Available Information

Copies of company annual reports (1994 to present), as well as information relating to any of the above, A through C, are available for review at the William B. Travis Building, Gas Services Division, 9th Floor, 1701 North Congress. All requests for copies must be made in writing and should be addressed to the Audit Section. Copies will be provided for a fee, depending on the volume of copy work desired, allow a minimum of five days for completion of requests. Inquiries regarding copies should be directed to the Audit Section at (512) 463-7022, or Fax your request to (512) 475-3180.

4. REGULATORY ANALYSIS AND POLICY**A. Maintains the following office to assist you:**

Headquarters - William B. Travis Building

1701 North Congress, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711

Karl Nalepa, Assistant Director

Telephone (512) 463-7164

B. Gas Utilities Information BulletinPublished on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/rapbls.html>.**C. Proposals For Decision**Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/pfds.html>.**D. Tariff Filings**

Questions pertaining to the filing of tariffs and/or quality of service rules should be directed to Kathy Arroyo, Yolanda Lovelace or Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164.

E. Curtailments

Curtailment questions should be referred to Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164. Curtailment reports made Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., should be made to (512) 463-7164. Curtailment reports made during hours other than those specified above and holidays, should be made to (512) 463-6788, (512) 896-3863 (digital pager), (512) 892-1772 or (512) 280-5949.

F. Compliance Filings

Questions regarding gas utilities docket compliance filing requirements should be referred to Jackie Standard at (512) 463-7164.

G. Complaints and Inquiries

All complaints and inquiries relating to the gas utility industry should be directed to the Regulatory Analysis and Policy section at (512) 463-7164.

H. Rules and Regulations:

GUD No. 9221 Amendments to Quality of Service Rules

GUD No. 9253 New Rule for Relocation Cost Recovery Factor

GUD No. 9257 Amendments to §7.450 Gas Distribution in Mobile Home Parks, Apartment Houses and Apartment Units.

GUD No. 9275 Amendments to §7.512 NGPA Section 311 Rate Review

GUD No. 9276 Amendments to §7.511 TUC Section 102.054 Sale, Transfer, Merger Reviews

GUD No. 9277 Amendments to §7.305 Curtailment Rule

GUD No. 9303 Amendments to §7.465 Abandonment Rule

GUD No. 9334 Amendments to §7.310 System of Accounts

5. HEARINGS AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**A. Miscellaneous**

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of appendices to Orders appearing in Section 5 of this Bulletin should contact the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.

B. Status of Pending Cases

The status of all pending cases listed in Section 3 of this Bulletin is for informational purposes only and is complete up to the time of printing of this Bulletin. For a more accurate status of pending cases, please call the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.